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AN ARM OF HOME MISSIONS.

Reader! Have you ever seen a prairie? In summer the long, waving grass suggests the constant motion of the sea; in winter the white mantle of snow gleaming in the sunshine is almost too dazzling for the eye. Mile after mile—mile after mile—and not a tree meets the view. If ever you realize the meaning of the word *alone*, it is in the vast expanse of an uninhabited prairie. Whether facing the wintry blasts of December or the sudden thunderstorm of July, your thought is that you are shelterless. The settler's plough it is true is changing all this, and the golden wheat fields supply the wherewith for rapid progress. In the meantime the settler is poor. He has risked all on his great westward journey. He awaits the return of his venture. So the humble church building must be provided for him, or at least help be given him to erect it. Then as to the missionary. As he goes forth to follow the settlers he is not allowed to homestead. The Home Mission Committee will only permit him to be a spiritual sower. The missionary is often like his early prototypes, "without purse" and almost without scrip. He is like his greater example without "a place to lay his head." So the church says he must have a church building for his work, and a roof to shelter him. He has as good a right "to lead about a sister—a wife," as any one else. So he must have a house. Hence the reasonableness of the church and Manse Fund. It has done a noble work for the church in the west in the last decade. We were rejoiced to record lately a donation of £300 from an unknown giver in Scotland. Perhaps there are many more such donations to follow from the fatherland. Work for this fund has been going on lately in our own Synod. Victoria, B. C. subscribed \$3,000, Hon. John Robson, Premier, heading the list with \$1,000. Well done! New Westminster followed with \$2,300, with more promised. Calgary subscribed \$1165, Regina \$500, and Prospect \$340 with more to follow. Dr. Robertson, on whom the chief burden of the canvass falls, speaks appreciatively of the interest and liberality of our people, especially in British Columbia.

"The branch that Thou prunest, though feeble and dried,
May languish, but never decays." John XV., 2-5.

...TED CHURCH